

Harbor Town Citizens' Task Force of Crime and Safety
Summary of Actions 10/25/17-11/13/17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our committee was formed in response to the increase of crime in our neighborhood and on 10/25/17, the task force met for the first time to brainstorm possible ways to combat crime. As a result, our task force organized into smaller subcommittees to address the following initiatives:

- Conduct a professional review of crime and solutions
- Evaluate current street lighting and initiate measures where needed
- Investigate security cameras (personal home and commercial)
- Develop a neighborhood watch program in conjunction with the MPD
- Investigate alert technology similar to "Amber Alert" and from Ring
- Investigate gates and fencing
- Investigate security patrols

This report summarizes the progress made so far for each of these subcommittees and what we intend to do in the short term and longer term. Additionally, apart from actions of our committee, the Harbor Town Board has taken actions to address security.

TASK FORCE PROGRESS AS OF 11/13/17

- Professional review completed (see Professional Review)
- Street lighting evaluation completed and plan enacted with MLGW and Harbor Town management. Further communication with homeowners is planned to address porch and garage lighting
- Security cameras investigated by a team who investigated private and commercial cameras. A list is being compiled for private cameras which includes professional installation options, pricing, and implementation issues. A quote for commercial cameras including their professional review of camera placement has been received. (Only one vendor has responded although two vendors have been asked to submit bids).
- A plan for a neighborhood watch program has been developed: blocks have been defined as well as the expectations for block captains. Neighborhood watch training conducted by the MPD has been scheduled for November 21st at 5:30 (location TBD).
- An AMBER-like alert technology has been pilot tested and will be incorporated into the neighborhood watch/block captain initiative
- Gates and fencing have not been investigated. Additional team members are needed.
- Security patrols have not been investigated outside of the professional review.

BOARD PROGRESS

The Harbor Town Board has taken steps on behalf of the community and has increased patrols in the evenings (two patrols) and has reviewed liability concerns with the town attorney. The town attorney confirmed that the Board could do almost anything that our committee was considering. One important exception was in regards to security patrols. The town attorney felt we needed to hire a private patrol company rather than employ our own guards. That step of separation, by using contracted security, would help mitigate the increased liability risk we would incur if we used in-house security. The attorney did make the point that the board needed to follow the regular process of implementing any of these ideas including motion, discussion, and vote. Also, he did stipulate that the HOA is not responsible for personal security of its homeowners; that is the job of the police force. In other words, when a resident has their personal security threatened, they need to call the police and not the HOA.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to address immediate security issues and to allow more time for the subcommittees to formulate a long term plan, the task force plans to ask the Harbor Town Board on 11/20/17 to enact the short term recommendations of the Professional Review. These include:

- Hire security for the holiday season in the evening hours. Post a patrol at each entrance and require guests to check-in.
- Place temporary signs at each entrance: "Private Community"
- Create a neighborhood watch
- Fix inoperable lighting and encourage porch and garage lighting for the home and commercial residents.
- Help to provide a written newsletter to routinely notify all residents of efforts to reduce crime and provide them with strategies and information
- At the 11/15/17 meeting, the task force will evaluate the SKYCOP quote for commercial cameras and may decide to pursue installing commercial cameras in the short term which would require a Board vote.

LONGER TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee will continue their investigations and take into account the recommendations from our professional review and will target a comprehensive plan prepared by January 2018 which we intend to share with the community via an attachment when the newsletter is emailed. After allowing for a community review period, we plan to ask the Board to vote on our longer term recommendations. The task force will remain as permanent committee to oversee the neighborhood watch program, coordinate quarterly security newsletters and MPD meet and greet events, as well as re-evaluate security measures in the future.